

# Bettie Fennell's Stand on the Guiding Principles

## Brunswick County Republican Party

### 2009 Guiding Principles Brunswick County Republican Party

*The time-honored principles of individual freedom, rights, personal responsibility, limited government, lower taxation, strong national defense, and a belief in the strength of the family are more relevant today than at any time in our nation's history. In concert with the Republican National Committee and the North Carolina Republican Party, the Brunswick County Republican Party believes the following:*

#### **A Government of the People, by the People and for the People**

- A Nation of Laws, Not Men: We respect and cherish the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and our Founders' intent to guarantee our individual freedoms. We expect our elected officials to uphold their oath of office and to be efficient, effective, ethical, and responsive to their constituents. We believe our founding fathers never intended the judicial branch of our government to create law and thus oppose judicial activism.

Do you support this Guiding Principle?    **Yes**    No    Unsure

**I strongly oppose judicial activism, which I believe has created some of the problems that exist today, including efforts to overlook fundamental Christian values in decisions made, such as those involving school prayer.**

- The Role of Government: We believe that all levels of government exist to serve the will of the people, not vice versa. We must emphasize the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."

Do you support this Guiding Principle?    **Yes**    No    Unsure

**I strongly support this principal and believe states have already, whether covertly or overtly, abdicated too much power to the federal government. I believe we should seize every opportunity to take back powers granted to the states under this amendment.**

- Election Integrity and Secret Ballot: Preventing voter fraud and abuse is a civil rights issue. We must restore the integrity of the voting process and prevent voter fraud by strengthening election laws. Those charged with committing election fraud should be prosecuted and, when convicted, should receive jail sentences. Further, we support requiring voters to present a federal or state government-issued photo ID at in-person voting, increased scrutiny and security in balloting by mail, prohibition of Internet voting or any other means of electronic voting which lacks a verifiable paper trail.  
Do you support this Guiding Principle? **Yes**  No  Unsure

**I support this principle and while photo-ID may be the primary means of ensuring election integrity now, I propose that when technology is available and it becomes fiscally feasible, that we move to a more secure way of ensuring the integrity of elections through such methods as fingerprint ID, eye scanning or other methods not yet researched.**

- Private Property Rights: We believe that the right to own and control private property is one of the fundamental rights of free people in a free society. We oppose forced annexation and believe registered voters in the area proposed for annexation must approve the annexation proposal. Further, government does not have the right to take private property by condemnation or eminent domain except for a legitimate public use and upon prompt payment of just compensation.  
Do you support this Guiding Principle? **Yes**  No  Unsure

**I strongly support this principle and believe the burden should be placed on cities and towns to convince residents in areas targeted for annexation as to why they should be annexed. I believe the current liberal annexation laws are unjust and amounts to taxation without representation. I oppose the government taking over private property except for limited public purposes and only after just compensation has been paid.**

- Law Enforcement: We support enforcement of the laws through the Courts' imposition of swift and sure justice with stiff penalties, consistent sentencing, and respecting and protecting the rights of victims and law-abiding citizens.  
Do you support this Guiding Principle? **Yes**  No  Unsure

**I believe that the laws have tilted too far toward the rights of the accused and ignored the rights of victims and that trend should stop. Courts should uphold the people's rights to life, liberty, and property, while ensuring that the accused receive just punishments for violating those rights.**

## Protecting Our Nation

- Strong National Defense: We believe in peace through strength. We take a principled stand to preemptively defend the citizens of the United States against all foes, foreign or domestic, whose goal is to destroy our American way of life. Freedom is never free, and we honor all those who have served our nation to protect our liberty, especially our men and women in uniform who unselfishly and courageously defend our country.

Do you support this Guiding Principle? **Yes**  No  Unsure

**I believe we owe our very lives to the people who defend this country and, therefore, we should do all in our power to ensure they receive their just rewards for putting their lives on the line for us. I believe they should receive just compensation, health care and educational benefits for the sacrifices they have made for our country.**

- Immigration Control: We believe that border security is a national security issue and the federal government has the duty to protect citizens by enforcing immigration laws and securing the borders. We oppose amnesty for anyone entering this country illegally.

Do you support this Guiding Principle? **Yes**  No  Unsure

**I strongly oppose amnesty for people who made the decision to violate our laws when they first stepped foot on American soil. I believe immigration control is not only a security issue, but an economic one as well and that they should be denied tax-paid benefits. I also believe illegal immigration is a law enforcement issue. I support and encourage counties to participate in the federal 287-G program in which illegal immigrants who are arrested for crimes can be deported immediately.**

- Environmental Stewardship: We believe that we are the stewards of our God-given natural resources. We have the duty to protect the air and water, productive forests, and abundant wildlife which make coastal North Carolina a great place to live, work and play. At the same time, we believe that any regulations intended to protect the environment should be reasonable, balanced and must demonstrate that the benefits warrant the cost.

Do you support this Guiding Principle? **Yes**  No  Unsure

**We live in a sensitive environment and should be careful not to destroy it. Our unique environment is one reason many people move to this area. At the same time, we should be careful that the regulations are reasonable and encourage a strong economy.**

## **Our Nation Needs a Strong Economy**

- Government Spending and Taxes: We believe that government spending at all levels is out of control and must be reduced. We support fundamental, immediate tax reform that is simple, fair and fully disclosed.

Do you support this Guiding Principle? **Yes**  No  Unsure

**I oppose the current system of taxing production and support efforts to tax consumption, which is the basis of the “Fair Tax” plan. Such a plan would eliminate the IRS, simplify our tax system and exclude the poor from such taxes. I also strongly support efforts to get control of government spending and ending entitlements and/or pork barrel spending.**

- Secret Ballot: We support protecting and preserving the secret ballot in labor union elections.

Do you support this Guiding Principle? **Yes**  No  Unsure

**I oppose any effort that could lead to the intimidation of workers. Secret ballots should be protected and preserved.**

## **Protecting and Preserve Our Values**

- Sanctity of Life: We believe that human life is sacred, created in the image of God. Life begins at the moment of conception and ends at death. We must protect the right to life of the unborn child.

Do you support this Guiding Principle? **Yes**  No  Unsure

**I believe that life is sacred and should be protected from the moment of conception. I believe that a fetus is more than just a mass of tissue.**

- Marriage and Family: We believe that marriage is a legal and moral commitment between a man and a woman. We recognize that the family is the foundational unit of a healthy society and is responsible for its own welfare, education, moral training, conduct, and property.

Do you support this Guiding Principle? **Yes**  No  Unsure

**I believe marriage should be between one man and one woman and that marriage should be encouraged to ensure that we have a healthy society.**

- Education: We believe that a well-educated population is fundamental to the continued success of our county. Parents have the right, as well as the duty, to direct their children's education and should be able to choose among public, private, charter, home, and religious schools.

Do you support this Guiding Principle? **Yes**  No  Unsure

**Parents should make the decision about how their children will be educated, whether in the home or in a public, private, charter or religious school. I also believe they should have control over what their children will be taught. I oppose government efforts to indoctrinate our children in values that contradict our Christian principles.**

- English as the Official Language: The United States has been an English-speaking nation since its founding and English should be declared the official language of government and commerce in the United States. Citizenship requirements must require competency in the English language to provide equal opportunities for all citizens.

Do you support this Guiding Principle? **Yes**  No  Unsure

**I believe English as the official language should be adopted by the federal and state governments.**

- Public Safety: We believe all Americans have the right to be safe in their homes, on their streets, and in their communities. Our citizens have the right to protect themselves and their families. We believe in the Second Amendment right of the people to keep and bear arms.

Do you support this Guiding Principle? **Yes**  No  Unsure

**I strongly support the right of individuals to keep and bear arms to protect us from violent criminals and a tyrannical government.**

- Racism and Discrimination: We believe that the Government shall not discriminate against or grant preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin; in public employment, public education or public contracting.

Do you support this Guiding Principle? **Yes**  No  Unsure

**I believe we are all created equal and should be judged based on our qualifications and not on race, color, religion, sex or national origin. I am,**

**therefore, opposed to affirmative action in employment, education and public contracting.**